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U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
16 February 1987

**WASHINGTON
WHISPERS**

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Reagan's choice of No. 2 man Robert Gates to succeed William Casey at the CIA wasn't as hard as it appeared. Instead of the long list of contenders hashed over by the media, the President had boiled it down to just two real possibilities—Gates and former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker. When Baker didn't jump at the job, Gates was the only one left in the running.
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